

was hit by an improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. She is the first woman from Connecticut to be killed in Iraq since the United States began military operations there in March 2003.

Tyanna Avery-Felder's death is a sobering reminder to all of us, and particularly to people in my home State of Connecticut, that the brave members of our Armed Forces who are risking their lives for us overseas are no longer simply sons, brothers, and fathers. They are daughters, mothers, and sisters, as well.

Specialist Avery-Felder was not the only soldier in her family. She was married to U.S. Army SP4 Adrian Felder. The couple met while they were both completing their basic training in Fort Lewis, and they were married on December 20, 2002, just a few months before the war in Iraq began. Both of them knew of the commitment, risk, and sacrifice inherent in military service. But it was Tyanna who was called to serve overseas in Iraq. And it was she who would make the most powerful sacrifice of all.

Tyanna Avery-Felder was a graduate of Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, where she enjoyed playing basketball and singing in the gospel choir. She spent 1 year at Southern Connecticut State University before enlisting in the Army. She was determined to be a teacher for young children when she finished her military service.

Tyanna was a driven, goal-oriented young woman whose mind was hard to change once she made it up. And she was the kind of soldier who inspired her drill instructor at boot camp to compliment her on her toughness. But Specialist Avery-Felder also had a kind heart, and a loving relationship with her parents and her husband.

All of us in Connecticut and across America owe a deep and solemn debt of gratitude to Tyanna Avery-Felder and to her family for her service to our country. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I offer my deepest condolences to Tyanna's husband Adrian, to her parents, Ray and Ilene, and to everyone who knew and loved her.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today is supposed to be a day to mark the importance of protecting the environment. And thankfully, many people are. But though we are all marking the day, the only people celebrating are industry CEOs and lobbyists.

The Bush administration's laser-like focus on rolling back our environmental and public health protections is breathtaking, literally. The rollbacks are dirtying our air and destroying the health of the planet.

Instead of packing the agencies responsible for the environment with environmental stewards as you would expect, the administration has focused on

creating a public relations firm under the guise of the Environmental Protection Agency.

It's been a busy PR firm: announcing environmental rollbacks on Fridays or around holidays when they think the American public is not paying attention, assigning green names to destructive policies, scrubbing regulatory actions to downplay public health risks to meet their political needs and flat out ignoring scientific facts are just a few of their favorite marketing tools.

But for all their public relations maneuvering, the public recognizes the enormous and long-term effect of these policies on our environment and our health. This PR campaign is being led by the very people the administration is supposed to be policing: industry representatives often at the heart of the most egregious environmental neglect. The administration's latest rollback has the fingerprints of lobbyists all over it, the Bush retreat from strong mercury controls at coal-fired power plants.

Unfortunately, the "swoosh" from the revolving door between industry lobby shops and the Bush administration has now spilled over to the Federal bench. The Bush administration recognizes that the courts have become the final backstop against their environmental rollbacks, blocking Bush attempts to gut the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and protection of our national monuments.

The courts have ruled against Bush arguments to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act 80 percent of the time. The Bush solution, give anti-environmental, unqualified industry lobbyists lifetime judicial appointments.

The debate over William Myers, a former cattle and mining industry lobbyist, may be one of the most important environmental debates we have this year. Unlike the Bush industry appointees to Federal agencies, Mr. Myers' effect on environment and public lands would survive long past this Presidency. As I have said many times, the environment is not a partisan issue but this administration has made it clear that industry interests trump the public interest.

GOVERNOR FRANK B. MORRISON

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, Gov. Frank Morrison was quoted in the December 5, 1975 Lincoln Evening Journal:

As long as Frank Morrison's alive, I'll never retire, even though I'm flat on my back. There are too many problems in this world which need attention.

Much has already been said about the late Gov. Frank B. Morrison and his remarkable life. However, I would like to add a couple of thoughts from the perspective of a Nebraskan, a U.S. Senator, and a Republican.

The first time I had the opportunity to meet Frank Morrison, I was a young radio station reporter in Omaha during

the 1970 Nebraska Senate campaign. In my first interview with him, I was drawn to his passion and sense of purpose. Frank Morrison believed he could make the world better—and he succeeded. His political career and life were about enhancing the world around him and solving problems.

Frank's dedication to Nebraska was, and still is, seen and felt statewide. As Governor, he and his wife Maxine encouraged Nebraskans to take pride in their State. It was his vision and pride in Nebraska that eventually led to the completion of the Great Platte River Road Archway spanning Interstate 80 outside of Kearney. He was dedicated to recognizing Nebraska's role as an important crossroads in the Nation's development and westward migration.

I stayed in touch with Frank over the years, but it wasn't until I came to the Senate in 1997 that I communicated with him on a regular basis. He would write or call me, offering suggestions, observations, and thoughts on issues of the day. I last spoke with him a week after Maxine's death when Frank knew he had very little time left. In our last conversation, he never once mentioned his battle with cancer, his pain, or his impending death. Our conversations were always about the future.

I told my Senate colleague and Frank's former colleague, Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS (D-SC), that Frank did not have much time left. Frank and FRITZ were Governors together during the 1960s. I gave FRITZ Frank's phone number and he called him. They had a wonderful 45 minute conversation as they said their last goodbyes.

Frank Morrison was a remarkable man for many reasons. The ultimate compliment that can be paid to any of us at the end of our lives fits him well—he left the world better than he found it.

Frank's unyielding commitment to his family, State, and country is a model for all Nebraskans. He was a dedicated public servant who inspired others through his personal conduct and respect for others. All of Nebraska thanks Governor Frank and Maxine Morrison for their contributions to our State and humanity.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this week the citizens of Nebraska lost a legend with the passing of Governor Frank Morrison, and I rise to recognize my plain-spoken friend of 45 years.

When I was Governor of South Carolina, Frank became Governor of Nebraska, and I have admired him ever since. We spoke earlier this spring, and his mind was as sharp at age 98, as it was at age 58.

When I think of Frank I think of a man who knew how to get results. He was a progressive Governor, but also a fiscally conservative one. He implemented many changes, insofar as creating an educational television network and a statewide employee retirement system that modernized state government.

We will miss him, as we miss his wife Maxine, who just passed away last

month. My wife, Peatsy, joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to their family.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great Nebraskan, a statesman, and a friend—former Governor Frank Morrison.

On Monday, Frank Morrison passed away in McCook, NE.

For a boy growing up in McCook, Frank Morrison was more than a governor to me, he was a role model. The Morrisons were friends of my family and I still remember delivering my first May Basket to Jeanne Morrison at the age of five. Maxine Morrison was my kindergarten teacher and Frank was my mentor in my early years in Nebraska politics.

I would often talk to him about the issues of the day and he was always candid and fair in his advice. We didn't always agree, but Frank never let politics become personal. He had big dreams and big goals, but they were always practical and they became possible through his dedication. He worked with folks on both sides and he got a lot done because he understood that rhetoric and partisan passions were less important than making progress. He was a democrat and he loved the Democratic Party. But he loved Nebraska more. Nebraska was always, ALWAYS, first in his mind.

Although not a native Nebraskan, he loved this state as much as anyone and, in every sense of the word, was a statesman. He was as synonymous with Nebraska as the Sandhills, the Panhandle, the Platte, and the Huskers. All Nebraskans owe Frank Morrison a debt of gratitude for the leadership and partnerships he offered us over the years.

Just last year, we had an illustration for the kind of regard in which Frank was held. Last September, the Chancellor of the University of Kearney, Dough Christenson, presented Frank with an honorary degree. The degree recognized Frank's more than seven decades of public service and his tireless advocacy for Nebraska. Frank said that it was the greatest day of his life, except the day his wife Maxine said "yes". Truly a well-deserved honor for a beloved Nebraska statesman.

I would be leaving something out if I didn't also talk about Frank's sense of humor. His wit was legendary in Nebraska and it was undiminished even in his final days. I remember, just after one of my first elections—a very close primary race, I spoke with Frank and he told me about one of his first races.

He had been nominated to the local school board by both parties. And he said he lost to a write-in candidate.

But losing an election didn't bother Frank. He was dedicated to public service and to promoting Nebraska.

He brought pride to our State and he was a tireless advocate of the natural wonders of a State that he had not been born in, but that he called home.

Frank was 98 years old when he passed and that is a long life by any-

one's standards. But the measure of his accomplishments is longer still.

Just a little over a month ago, Frank's beloved wife Maxine passed away. The loss of these two Nebraska legends had signaled, perhaps, the end of an era. They have left a void that will be very difficult to fill, but they have also left a legacy and a love of Nebraska and his country that will likely outlive us all.

I conclude with some words from the McCook Daily Gazette, the daily paper from the hometown Frank and I share:

"Frank had a grand vision, but he was also a down home person who loved his family, his adopted hometown, the people of Nebraska and this nation and this world.

"We will miss you, Frank. But we are very, very glad you lived such an abundant life. Thank you for living with purpose and passion. We will try, as best we can, to follow your example."

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2004

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, since the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, we have celebrated this day as an annual occasion on which to examine our Nation's environmental policies.

Sadly, there is little to celebrate in terms of environmental protection this year and much to worry about.

Just last week, we learned that 474 counties throughout our Nation failed to meet air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. A total of 159 million people—more than half the Nation's population—live in these communities.

In my home State of California nearly 90 percent of State residents live in areas with unhealthy levels of smog. That means that 90 percent of Californians are at increased risk of asthma, reduced lung function and chronic lung diseases.

What is also alarming is that eight national parks, four of which are in California, contain excessively high levels of ozone.

Can you believe that the air in Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Joshua Tree National Parks is harmful to your health?

And then there is the gravest threat to our environment and ultimately, our health—global warming. Climate change is the most important environmental issue facing us today.

I would like to take a minute now to talk about a likely impact of climate change that has not received very much attention—its effect on our water supplies.

The evidence is growing that climate change threatens water supplies throughout the western United States—and especially on the West Coast.

Just recently, researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz analyzed the impact of global warming on Arctic Sea ice.

What they found was that higher temperatures will cause Arctic Sea ice

to melt which will, in turn, reduce the west coast's water supply.

According to the Santa Cruz scientists' models, melting sea ice will create columns of warmer air that change air flow in the atmosphere and deflect storms and needed precipitation away from Western U.S. lands.

Forecasts indicate that Arctic Sea ice may shrink by up to 50 percent in summer months by the year 2050. This could have truly devastating consequences for our Nation's water supplies.

Under the UC-Santa Cruz researchers' models, in 2050, the West Coast, from southern British Columbia to southern California, could receive 30 percent less rain than it does now.

And this is not just a problem for California. The research models show that the melting ice could decrease precipitation as far inland as the Rocky Mountains.

The water infrastructure in the West, particularly in California, is already stretched to the limit this year. Even now we are struggling to provide enough water for our communities, farms, forests, fish, and wildlife. What would we do with 30 percent less precipitation?

The Santa Cruz study is not the only one forecasting reduced water supplies in the West. In fact, many global and regional statistical models agree that the West will see reduced snowpack as a result of rising temperatures.

Under those models, California and the West will receive more winter rain and less snow meaning two things for Western States—increased flooding in the winter and water shortages in the summer.

We are not talking about minor effects.

In February of this year, scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory forecasted reductions in snowpack of up to 70 percent in the coastal mountains over the next 50 years as a direct result of warming temperatures.

In the West, our water infrastructure is based on the gradual melting of snowpack throughout the spring and summer. A 70-percent decline in snowpack would be catastrophic.

The evidence is also mounting that climate change threatens not only our water supplies, but also global biodiversity.

A report published in the January edition of the British journal Nature estimates that 25 percent of Earth's plant and animal species will be wiped out in the next 50 years if global temperatures continue to rise as expected.

This means that more than 1 million of the estimated 5 million land species could face extinction within our children's and grandchildren's lifetimes.

It is time to take global warming seriously and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The consequences of delaying and deferring decisions are severe.

As a country with only 4 percent of the world's population, but which produces 25 percent of carbon dioxide